undp

update

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UNDP Administrator addresses Earth Summit

"The greatest unifying force between North and South will be the recognition of the richer nations that they have an obligation—indeed, it is in their own interest—to assume some of the additional costs of the transition to sustainable development in the South," said William H. Draper III, Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Mr. Draper also called for substantial increases in funding for the Global Environment Facility, of which UNDP is one of the three managers, and for earmarking 15 per cent of new sustainable development funds for building the capacity of developing countries to plan and manage their environmental programmes.

Mr. Draper spoke on 4 June at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro. He said that additional sums for sustainable development could come from increases in aid, but even more resources could be available to South by freeing up global markets.

He gave three other conditions for success of a global plan to protect the common habitat:

- Recognition that environmental degradation is not an isolated problem. "Explosive population growth, poverty and environmental degradation are part of the same vicious circle," said Mr. Draper. "The best contraceptive is human development, particularly education of women."
- Knowledge that environmental priorities change at different stages of development. "People in the rich industrial nations are preoccupied by issues of global warming, biodiversity, depletion of ozone and disposal of toxic wastes, while developing countries are mostly concerned with the basic issues of human survival."
- Change in the character and distribution of future growth. "Present consumption patterns by the North, if taken to a global scale, would spell ecological disaster." But for the developing countries, "growth is not an option, it is an imperative."

"Resources should be accorded their true value, and let the polluter pay —whether individuals or nations," added Mr. Draper. He also urged the international community to focus on the inequities that divide the world. "A divided and polarized world is inherently unsustainable. When a large portion of humanity is lacking the most basic human needs, the concept of one Planet Earth simply cannot emerge."

UNDP Governing Council approves new programmes and praises management changes

Eight Commonwealth of Independent States countries were granted recipient status by the 39th session of UNDP's Governing Council: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Sixty-two delegations and 15 agencies attended the historic Governing Council session which approved 63 country programmes for UNDP and 31 for the UN Population Fund.

The Council asked UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III to continue reviewing the senior management structure to increase efficiency and effectiveness. It also encouraged him to designate a unit with overall responsibility for institutional strategic planning within UNDP.

Regarding the countries which received recipient status, the Governing Council requested that Mr. Draper "give priority in determining the location of any temporary UNDP office to those countries with the lowest relative levels of per capita gross national product, and the highest levels of indicative planning figures and aggregate programme resources."

The Council did not reach a decision on the Human Development Report. All major donors, except Japan, strongly favoured continuation of the publication and supported its independent approach. Critics of the report questioned the independence of the experts who worked on it and expressed reservations about their methodology.

The German Government's invitation to move UNDP and its affiliates to Bonn will be reviewed at the next Governing Council session. A report will be prepared for that session assessing the pros and cons of the move after 1996.

International forum examines development and the disabled

The idea that disabled people should be integrated into general development programmes, and that UNDP could take a leading role in ensuring such participation was recommended at a forum on aid coordination for rehabilitation programmes, held in Geneva from 25-29 May. More than 36 representatives from governments, United Nations agencies and NGOs participated in the forum, which was sponsored by UNDP's Division for Global and Interregional Programmes (DGIP). It was organ-

In this issue:

projects approved: **Improved public administration for Burkina Faso • China strengthens customs administration • China seeks value-added products from processed starch • Cuba tests new sources of swine feed • Better forestry management for India • Community-based rural development for Mali • Paraguay bolsters exports • Groundwater plan for Qatar • Fisheries development for Sri Lanka • Tonga designs agricultural development plan • Zimbabwe boosts agricultural extension services • Urban management consultations**

ized by Dr. E. Helander, Senior Programme Coordinator for the Interregional Programme for Disabled People.

One aim of the forum was for UNDP "to seek closer ties with development and donor organisations concerned with programmes for disabled people in the developing countries," said DGIP Director, Tim Rothermel in his opening statement.

He added that the existing 4,000-5,000 projects for the disabled, which are supported worldwide by external sources, cost $300-$400 million a year. "The costs per beneficiary are high because of the fragmentation of services and the fact that there is no sharing of administration and management expenses," said Mr. Rothermel.

Dr. Jean Rochon, Director of Health Protection and Promotion for the World Health Organization, stated that a recent World Health Assembly Resolution stimulated a new spirit of cooperation and emphasis on the needs and potentials of the disabled, and stressed the essential role played by non-governmental organizations.

Participants of the forum recommended more active involvement of the disabled in government policy-making and planning efforts. They urged that staff in all development agencies receive information and training to deal more effectively with disability issues in the context of development programmes.

Computer network will provide links to global environmental information

UNDP has initiated the Sustainable Development Network (SDN). This Network is in fact a "network of networks" that will link sources and users of information on sustainable development in government, research, academic, media, non-governmental, grassroots and entrepreneurial organizations. The aim is to assist countries in gaining access to information and sound technologies that will enable them to care for their environment while improving economic growth for present and future generations.

Twenty pilot networks will be initiated through selected UNDP field offices in 1992. Preliminary studies are now being conducted to determine how SDN can best serve each country's needs.

The SDN will provide a major link for communicating information on the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Brazil, June 3-14. The UNCED Secretariat's Agenda 21 Information System will be one of the sources of information it will tap.

Three US students win writing contest on the United Nations and the environment

A panel of US experts announced the three prize-winning essays for the 1992 National High School Essay Contest on the United Nations, sponsored by the United Nations Association of the USA, the Dailey Family Foundation, and UNDP. The first prize of $1,000 goes to 12th grade student Justin Spicer of Ohio, second prize of $750 to 12th grade student Corina Zappia of Texas, and the third prize of $500 to 10th grade student Vikram Bhagat of Delaware.

At a time when nations around the globe were preparing for UNCED, the contest challenged the participating 1,000 students from across the United States to prepare an essay on "Development and Environment: What Can the U.N. Do?"

The three winners and their teachers came to New York on 28 May to receive their awards and meet UN officials at the annual UN Ball. The first prize winner and his teacher, and the second prize winner will soon be departing for Senegal, courtesy of Air Afrique and UNDP, to witness first-hand the work of UNDP.

In his essay, Justin Spicer urges the creation of a "U.N. Council for Technological Dissemination" to link the developing and developed worlds in a transfer of environmentally sound technologies. For the world's youth, he proposes "a World Student Environmental Council, a student-run political forum which would be supplemented by an international computer and telecommunications link among students worldwide."

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Burkina Faso—As part of the country's Structural Adjustment Programme 1991-1993, UNDP will help the government enhance the public sector's capacity to create, boost and manage its system of administration. The project will help reorganize and modernize public service management by improving information systems. Rules and regulations, computerized procedures and the data base on human resources will be improved. New management methods will be introduced into the country's public administration.

UNDP contribution: US$1,406,926. Funds will provide experts in computerized management systems, human resources management, and public administration procedures; national advisers in public management training and public administration; two UN volunteers, support staff, training and equipment. Executed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development and implemented by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administration Modernization. (BKF/91/005)

China—The Government of China has undertaken a plan to improve its customs administration through training and upgraded methodologies, procedures, regulations and equipment. As part of the programme, the Customs General Administration created two training centres: the Guangzhou Administration Institute for Customs Officials and the Tianjin Training Center. Both institutes need qualified teachers and improved teaching materials.

UNDP will provide support to modernize and streamline the Customs General Administration. Ten studies will be undertaken in such critical areas of customs operations as tariffs, statistics, auditing and international customs conventions. Modern training methods and a new curriculum will be introduced at the Guangzhou Training Center. Domestic and foreign training and study tours will be provided to 800 customs officials.

UNDP contribution: US$995,000. Funds will be used for consultants, fellowships and training. Equipment will be provided for a language laboratory. Government executed and implemented by the Customs General Administration. (CPR/91/542)

China—China is the second largest maize producer, with an annual production of 70 million tonnes. The country's eighth five-year plan calls for increased grain production, including the processing of more starch derived from grain, for use in creating value-added products. These products are in high demand for the manufacture of paper, pharmaceuticals, textiles, gasohol and animal feed.

UNDP will help the country's Corn Processing Technical Applications Research and Development Center (CPTARDC) to develop and transfer technology to the maize processing industry, and introduce new technology for using maize by-products.

Starch derived products that could have wide applications in industry will be manufactured and tested. A study will be conducted to determine the industry's equipment, investment and research and development needs.

UNDP contribution: US$1,409,000. Government cost-sharing: US$150,000. Funds will provide consultants in such areas as starch application for paper, oil-well drilling, textiles, food, pharmaceuticals, sweeteners and fodder. Funds will also be used for national testing and evaluation experts. In addition, training and equipment will be provided. Executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and implemented by CPTARDC. (CPR/91/171)

Cuba—The country has developed a network for collecting and processing agricultural waste for its swine feed. The government will be constructing new production centres, moving toward a goal of producing 800,000 additional tonnes of swine feed a year. UNDP will support the establishment of a pilot plant for processing residuals from agriculture, agroindustries and fisheries, and it will provide training at the Porcine Research Institute. Research will improve technology for turning all kinds of agricultural waste into swine feed.

UNDP contribution: US$1 million. Funds will provide short-term experts in food conservation and protein enrichment, training, and laboratory equipment for the pilot plant. Executed by FAO, and implemented by the Porcine Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture. (CUB/91/011)

India—UNDP will assist a project to provide scientific and technical backing for improved forest management. Initially, it will focus on training the core staff of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education. The subjects to be taught by national and international consultants will include seed technology, tree improvement, tissue culture, tree-farm economics and the use of biofertilizers.

The project will demonstrate improved technologies at the village level. The aim will be to involve non-governmental organizations, community action groups and the private sector in research that will benefit farmers, tribes and other rural populations dependent on forests.

UNDP contribution: US$2,560,000. Funds will provide international consultants in tissue culture and seed research, and national consultants in forestry research. Fellowships and study tours in research management will also be provided. Government executed and implemented by FAO in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forests. (IND/89/012)

Mali—UNDP will assist the Government of Mali in a programme for community-based rural development. The effort will help structure village associations and literacy programmes. It will also provide training to strengthen the capabilities of the National and Regional Directorates for Cooperatives. At the local level, credit and savings facilities will be established in villages.

UNDP contribution: US$6,974,550. UN Capital Development Fund contribution: US$1,792,000. Funds will be used for management and development experts, training and equipment. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Environment. (MLI/91/003)

Paraguay—UNDP will provide support to improve the organization and operation of PRO-PARAGUAY, the government's investment and export promotion office. The project will establish export committees and seven PRO-PARAGUAY offices in Paraguayan embassies and trade councils. A database of individuals and institutions with experience in export promotion will be created, along with an information system for potential investors and importers. A documentation centre will be established to service Paraguayan exporters.

UNDP contribution: US$2,938,460. Government cost-sharing: US$100,000. The project will provide international consultants in export and investment promotion, administration, public relations, and coordination of technical assistance. Subcontracts will be provided in international promotion and publicity. Government executed and implemented by PRO-PARAGUAY. (PAR/91/002)

Qatar—Expanded agriculture and rapid urbanization have seriously depleted ground-water resources, causing sea water to flow into fresh water reserves. Additional sources of fresh water are required to maintain current levels of agricultural production. UNDP will support a project to determine the feasibility of a large-scale ground water supply scheme.

UNDP contribution: US$2,305,120. Funds will provide international project personnel, administrative support, training, equipment and a subcontract for the field hydrogeological studies. Executed by the UN Department for Economic and Social Development and implemented by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture. (QAT/92/001)

Sri Lanka—The Ministry of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (MFAR) has formulated a five-year plan for development of Sri Lanka's fisheries. The objectives are to increase fish production, improve nutrition, promote rational exploitation of aquatic resources and increase employment opportunities.

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To achieve these goals, UNDP will strengthen the capabilities of the MFAR to manage the country's fisheries by establishing a special unit to promote and direct fisheries management. A long-term management strategy will be devised, along with a more reliable fisheries management information system. Project support will also help ensure that field officials are better equipped to undertake extension work.

UNDP contribution: US$1,716,000. Funds will provide a fisheries management adviser and a census adviser. Short-term consultants in information systems will also be contracted. Fellowships and study tours will be financed. Executed by MFAR and implemented by the Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. (SRL/91/022)

Tonga—UNDP will assist the government in establishing a strategic agricultural development policy. It will help formulate development programmes to enhance food production and increase foreign exchange earnings from agricultural products.

UNDP contribution: US$337,600. Funds will be used for a technical adviser, an agricultural economist, study tours and training. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. (TON/91/001)

Zimbabwe—Inadequate farming techniques, improper land use, inappropriate technologies and unequal land distribution have hindered income and productivity of small farmers. UNDP will provide a programme of assistance to AGRITEX, the sole government agency charged with providing agricultural extension services. The programme will train 275 AGRITEX staff in irrigation, land use planning, horticulture and agricultural marketing. It will strengthen the ability of local organisations to represent farmers' interests. Assistance will be provided in constructing 20 small-scale irrigation systems. A comprehensive national land use plan for communal areas will be prepared.

UNDP contribution: US$4,845,170. UNDP will provide funding for six national experts in farming systems, women in development and land use planning, and four international experts in land use, irrigation development, horticulture and irrigation engineering. Three UN volunteers will be provided, along with training and equipment. Executed by FAO and implemented by the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlements Department of AGRITEX. (ZIM/91/005)

Interregional Project

INT/92/005—The growing concentration of people in cities is by now almost exclusively a developing world phenomenon. By the year 2025, 80 per cent of the world's urban residents will be in developing country cities. Given the inevitability of this trend in urbanization, UNDP will provide further assistance to the Urban Management Programme – a driving force in promoting urban development and facilitating aid coordination in urban management.

UNDP will offer support to improve urban management in developing country cities in five areas: land management, urban environment, infrastructure improvement, municipal finance and poverty alleviation. Representatives from the private sector, NGOs, national and local governments, research institutions and community groups will be brought together for consultations to help develop more effective policies and programmes for urban management.

UNDP contribution: US$7,560,000. Government of Switzerland: US$800,000. Government of The Netherlands: US$1,500,000. Funds will provide for equipment and training, along with a programme coordinator, a community credit specialist and regional coordinators and advisers for Africa, the Arab States, Asia and Latin America. Executed by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, with the World Bank as an associate agency. Implemented by participating ministries.

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update

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UNDP and Canada commit $8 million for environment programme

An initiative to support developing countries in the preparation of their sustainable development strategies and in carrying out "Agenda 21" programmes, was announced on 12 June by UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III. He was joined by Jean Charest, Minister of Environment of Canada, UNDP's first donor partner in the "Capacity 21 Initiative". Together, Canada and UNDP have committed an initial $8 million for pilot programmes. UNDP will try to expand the programme to $100 million with more donor partners by year end, and $500 million by 1995.

The "Capacity 21 Initiative" emerged from UNDP country assessments made in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The studies showed that the lack of national capacities to formulate environmental policies would prove to be a major bottleneck in making sustainable development work.

"I am very pleased that Canada responded so quickly to a UNDP invitation to help make Agenda 21 work," Mr. Draper said. "Canada has its own Green Plan which has given them valuable experience in creating the policies and building expertise needed to achieve sustainable development," he added. UNDP is also talking with other countries about joining the initiative.

"Capacity 21" is intended to build on and support existing initiatives to improve countries' sustainable development capabilities, rather than to duplicate them. It will help countries formulate policies and legislation, train people in environment and sustainable development and create machinery for public participation. "Capacity 21" will also make the best possible use of UN agencies, regional institutions and other partners, including non-governmental organizations.

UNDP backs the "People's Summit"

In an effort to save the Global Forum, UNDP announced on 10 June that it would contribute as much as $500,000 to match donations made to close the $2 million funding gap of the Global Forum, also known as the "People's Summit". The Global Forum was a gathering of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) paralleling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. It provided a means for NGOs to exchange information on sustainable development and to bring their voices to UNCED.

The Forum had more than 15,000 participants and included 6,500 organizations. Debts were incurred to pay local businesses for providing food, security, cleaning and communications.

"We expect that this grant will encourage those donors, both governmental and private, which have not yet done so to pledge a contribution," said Sarah L. Timpson, Deputy Assistant Administrator of UNDP. To date, efforts by UNDP and UNCED officials to mobilize funds to cover the shortfall had elicited slightly over $400,000 from governments, NGOs and private sources.

Reducing methane emissions from the world's rice fields

Over the next five years, UNDP will be contributing $5 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for a research programme to reduce the earth's methane emissions from rice fields. The project is designed to collect reliable data on the extent and means of control of these emissions. This GEF project will be executed by UNDP's Office for Project Services and sub-contracted to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Methane has been identified as an important greenhouse gas, adversely affecting the ozone layer and carbon monoxide concentrations. Scientists have estimated that rice fields annually contribute to 25 per cent of the world's yearly methane emissions. Various technologies have been proposed for mitigating methane emission, but more field research is essential for determining the most technically and socio-economically feasible methods.

Based on the global distribution of harvested rice lands, sites in China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand have been identified as the key research areas for the project. IRRI will focus

In this issue:

Projects approved: **Argentina modernizes civil aviation • Public sector reforms for Bolivia • Easing the environmental impact of coal production in China • Recovering liquid gas in China • Mali devises a broadcast master plan • River basin development in Venezuela • Industrial credit facility for Vietnam • Country studies on environment, development and trade • New approaches to Education For All**

on developing and standardizing equipment and methods for studying methane emissions, and will also train a group of experts in collaborating national agricultural research centres. Methane fluxes in major rice ecosystems will be quantified, and options for mitigating the emissions will be assessed.

Examining the economics of AIDS

Understanding HIV/AIDS as an issue that has economic consequences for governments, private businesses and individual families was the topic of a regional consultation held in Bangalore, India late last month. This meeting brought together economists, national planners and AIDS programme officials from ten countries in Asia and the Pacific. Representatives from the World Health Organization, the World Bank and UNDP also attended.

Specific case studies were presented which examined such issues as who is bearing the cost of HIV/AIDS in Asia, the economic impact of AIDS on Malaysian industrialization, and how the epidemic is affecting the transport sector. Effects of the epidemic on the Zambian copper industry were examined, along with the potential impact of AIDS on farming systems in Rwanda. Case studies were also presented from Thailand, the United States, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Participants concluded that policy-makers must concentrate on designing measures to mitigate the consequences of the epidemic, which will involve taking stock of the potential magnitude of its effect on various social and economic sectors. AIDS is no longer merely a health issue. They agreed that further socio-economic research is necessary in such areas as the role of labour migration in the spread of infection, the impact of AIDS on households, and health care financing and AIDS. Furthermore, the meeting was an important tool for establishing a network of economists and planners concerned with HIV/AIDS.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Argentina — UNDP will provide technical assistance to update civil aviation legislation, practices and procedures. Training will be provided to technical personnel, and administrative efficiency will be improved through computerization. A system of certification of aeronautical parts will be devised, along with a register of national aircraft. Procedures for the prevention and investigation of accidents will be upgraded.

UNDP contribution: US$502,500. Government cost-sharing: US$872,360. Funds will provide international experts and consultants in the areas of airworthiness training, certification of aeronautical parts and investigation of aviation accidents. Executed by the International Civil Aviation Organization and implemented by the National Directorate of Airworthiness. (ARG/92/003).

Bolivia—As a result of the economic crisis of the 80s, the government launched a programme of structural adjustment which includes public sector reform. UNDP will help modernize public enterprises by assisting in the preparation of performance contracts for the ten largest publicly owned companies. The performance contracts will lay out production schedules, investment requirements and managerial and administrative procedures.

UNDP will also assist in the privatization of four large public companies. Support will include analysis of economic and technical viability, sales strategies and recommendations on price and potential purchasers. In addition, the project will strengthen the ability of appropriate ministries to provide policy, financial and administrative guidance to public enterprises.

UNDP contribution: US$1,202,430. Funds will provide a national project director and national consultants in managerial information systems and planning, business strategies and economic policies. A legal consultant and environmental impact consultant will also be provided. Executed by the Office of Project Services of UNDP. Implemented by the Ministry of Planning and Coordination. (BOL/92/002)

China — China, the world's biggest producer and consumer of coal, is planning a national strategy to ease the environmental impact of producing and burning coal, and is examining ways to produce and use energy more effectively.

To help achieve these goals, UNDP will provide training, advisers and assistance in setting up pilot demonstration projects in several coal-related areas. These will include activities to improve occupational health and safety in the mining sector, and efforts to lower pollution caused by the production and combustion of coal. A national coal methane resource assessment study will be conducted for planning future energy development.

UNDP contribution: US$7.63 million. Government cost-sharing: US$8.18 million. Funds will provide international consultants, training, and testing equipment. Government executed and implemented by relevant ministries and offices. (CPR/91/210)

China — Efficient exploitation of small and scattered oil fields is of growing importance as the country's energy needs mount. The production of crude oil is often accompanied by the production of gas, which is separated from the crude oil. In liquid form, this gas can

be bottled, stored and transported at relatively low cost.

UNDP will improve the design engineering, procurement, construction and operating abilities of the Lanzhou Petroleum Machinery Research Institute (LPMRI). This project will help the Institute select appropriate technology and conduct demonstration tests for recovering liquid gas. UNDP will also develop the Institute's capabilities in studying the economic and technical feasibility of recovering gas in off-shore and remote sites. Ecologically sound means of handling associated gases will be recommended. The Institute's use of computerized engineering design and techniques will be improved.

UNDP contribution: US$1,960,945. LPMRI funding: US$481,000. Funds will provide short-term consultants and international consultants in design, engineering, and gas recovery. Study tours, computer software and equipment for a demonstration plant and test laboratory will be provided. Government executed and implemented by LPMRI. (CPR/91/271)

Mali—To meet the growing demand for private radio stations, the government has decided to develop a radio and television broadcast master plan. UNDP will organize a Donors Round Table in support of this master plan in early 1993. It will also provide assistance for management training in broadcasting.

UNDP funding: US$2,005,850. Funds will provide telecommunications experts, training, scholarships and equipment. Executed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Implemented by the Telecommunications Office of Mali. (MLI/91/008)

Venezuela—The government has started a programme to improve the management, conservation and development of river basins. Through a loan from the Inter American Development Bank, the government will carry out studies on river basin development, and will plan future investments to improve water and sewage systems and reduce their damage to the environment.

The Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources requested the support of UNDP to conduct a number of feasibility studies. These studies will help the government make sound investment decisions for the conservation of the environment and development of river basins, water supply and sewage systems.

UNDP contribution: US$5,025,661. Funds will provide training, and international and national consultants in project monitoring, and water and sewage engineering. Sub-contracts for the design of the Maya dam and water distribution systems will be provided. Sub-contracts will also be awarded for studies in soil conservation, hydrology, soil erosion, port improvement and agricultural development. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources. (VEN/92/015)

Vietnam—The lack of foreign exchange is a major obstacle to expanding and modernizing small and medium scale manufacturing enterprises in Vietnam. This project will enable the government to set up a $3 million industrial credit facility that will provide medium term loans, in foreign exchange, at a fixed interest rate to small and medium-sized industrial production enterprises. Interest will be payable in local currency.

The Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam (BFTV) will assess credit worthiness of borrowers and manage the loan operations. An international credit office will be established within BFTV and technical assistance will help bank officers with credit analysis and loan processing.

Contribution from the United Nations Capital Development Fund: US$3,706,510. This will provide consultants in banking, finance and industrial development. Funds will also be used for office equipment, a vehicle and study tours. Executed by the Office for Project Services of UNDP. Implemented by the Danang Province People's Committee. (VIE/90/C05)

Interregional Projects

INT/92/207—The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has developed a programme of action on the relationships among trade, environment and development. Under this programme, UNDP will prepare case studies in more than 14 countries, focusing on the economic, environmental and trade situations of each.

Analysis will be done on the impact of environmental concerns and regulations on the exports of each country. Studies will also focus on the impact of trade on the environment of each country. In light of current trends in international trade and environmental regulations, these studies will help form a composite picture of trade, development, and environmental issues as they affect the policies and prospects of developing countries.

UNDP contribution: US$400,000. Funds will provide international and national experts to conduct the country studies. Executed by UNCTAD and implemented by participating agencies.

INT/92/450—One conclusion of the 1990 Jomtien World Conference on Education for All was that new partnerships, new delivery systems for education and innovative learning strategies are needed

to meet the world's basic learning needs. UNDP will help in pioneering, mainstreaming and coordinating such educational activities.

UNDP's involvement with the Education for All programme will help improve delivery of basic education by working through alternatives to formal education systems. A regional information network will be established to pool and distribute innovative field experiences among countries, and training workshops will be conducted for exchanging ideas. The aim will be to facilitate cooperation among developing country institutions concerned with basic learning needs.

The programme will also fund field tests. A grant facility — called Pioneering of Useful Learning Strategies in Basic Education (PULSE) — will be provided for testing and improving new educational approaches. These will include such areas as alternative systems to primary schooling, non-formal learning for the rural or urban poor, and new curriculum development.

UNDP contribution: US$1,330,000. Funds will provide short-term consultants and training. Executed by the Office for Project Services of UNDP and implemented by participating ministries.

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Funds pledged for Cambodia top expectations

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Japan raised pledges worth $880 million for the reconstruction of Cambodia, far exceeding expectations of $600 million, at a Tokyo conference attended by 33 countries, the European Community and 12 international organizations. UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III, and Japan's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kogi Kakizawa, co-chaired this Ministerial Conference on the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Cambodia, held 22-23 June.

Japan was the biggest contributor, pledging between $150 million and $200 million. The United States was the second largest contributor with $135 million, with France providing $57 million, the European Community $40.2 million, and Britain $30 million.

These funds will be used to meet the development and rehabilitation needs of the country. Cambodia is in the midst of political, economic and social transition, following a settlement of the Cambodian conflict at a conference in Paris on 23 October 1991. As part of this transition, the UN has already begun repatriating 370,000 refugees returning to Cambodia from border camps in Thailand. The financial pledges from the international community will depend on peaceful compliance of the agreements made in Paris.

Earth Summit organizer to join UNDP as Special Adviser

Maurice Strong, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), will join UNDP as Special Adviser to UNDP Administrator William H. Draper III on 1 September.

Mr. Strong worked closely with UNDP headquarters and field staff in preparing for UNCED. He called UNDP "the principal instrument of development within the UN system," saying it would play a "pivotal role" in translating Agenda 21, the UNCED global action guidelines for sustainable development, into effective national programmes in developing countries. "UNDP has the momentum, the people, the credibility and a strong mandate to act," he told top UNDP officials.

Mr. Strong, a Canadian, has been active in both public and private sectors. He was the Secretary-General of the UN Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972, and became the first Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, based in Nairobi. He was active for some years in private industry. In 1985 and 1986, he was Executive Coordinator of the UN Office for Emergency Operations in Africa.

Japan and Denmark offer emergency grants to Mongolia

UNDP's Office for Project Services (OPS) has successfully completed two emergency programmes involving urgent procurement and delivery of equipment to Mongolia. Both efforts were bilaterally funded, the first from a grant of approximately $15 million from the Government of Japan, the second from a grant of $1.9 million from the Government of Denmark. Both grants were geared toward assisting the reformist government in grappling with severe economic hardship caused by Mongolia's rapid transition from a centrally-planned to a free-market economy.

The Japanese grant enabled Mongolia to import urgently needed commodities such as coal mining equipment, tires, steel pipes, batteries and valves. Fuel is scarce in the country and power outages routinely darken the capital, Ulaanbaatar. The bulk of Mongolia's fuel and more than half of its spare parts and equipment were imported from the former Soviet Union. Now that imports must be paid for in hard currency, these essential supplies have declined sharply.

The grant from the Danish Government was used for supplies for health and education programmes. These products were purchased from Danish suppliers and included medical equipment, printing paper, notebooks and school books.

A third OPS programme, designed to improve the Mongolian Government's ability to handle international procurement, will be operational in the near future. This effort involves establishing a

In this issue:

Projects approved: **Helping Afghanistan's disabled • Energy development for Bangladesh • Improved resettlement camps for Cambodia • Chad strengthens local environmental management • Increasing China's food production • Better pesticides and fertilizers for China • Boosting education administration in the Dominican Republic • Public sector reform in El Salvador • Holding back the dunes in Mauritania • Foreign investment specialists for selected transition economies • Finance reforms in Asia and the Pacific**

procurement unit within the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This unit will absorb and utilize the foreign aid now available to Mongolia from the international community. The unit will also assess national priorities for international procurement, undertake the actual procurement, and train national procurement officers.

Norwegian and Hungarian businesses exhibited their wares to UN procurement services

Ways and means of improving coordination among the procurement services of the United Nations system dominated discussion at a meeting of the Inter-Agency Procurement Working Group, held last month in Oslo, Norway. Also discussed were ways of increasing United Nations procurement from developing and under-utilized major donor countries. This latter group includes Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands.

Hosted by the Norwegian Government, and chaired by Mr. Toshiyuki Niwa, UNDP Assistant Administrator, the gathering was officially opened by the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Thorvald Stoltenberg. Representatives from various UN organizations participated in the seminar, which was organized through the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office (IAPSO).

In conjunction with the meeting, the Norwegian Trade Council organized a "Business Contact Day" for 40 Norwegian companies. This event was one in a series of forums enabling companies to exhibit their products and establish contact with various UN procurement services. The purpose was to encourage the export of Norwegian goods and services within technical cooperation programmes administered by the UN system worldwide.

A similar gathering was held last month in Hungary to assist potential Hungarian suppliers in presenting their goods and services to the UN system. Organized by the Hungarian Import and Trade Association in cooperation with IAPSO, this seminar was attended by 63 companies, and representatives from seven UN organizations.

After the Earth Summit: An action plan for women, environment and development

One of the first steps to successfully implementing the action plan of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development is to give full consideration to women as active players in the environment. With this in mind, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has been monitoring its projects to ensure they are ecologically sound, and have taken step to ensure that women actively participate in achieving sustainable development.

UNIFEM's framework for action includes screening all programmes to avoid negative consequences for women or the environment. It recommends that women have access to and control over resources, such as land tenure and water rights, and that they participate in decision-making.

Projects should be designed to increase women's income, health, knowledge, skills and self-esteem. Basic training and literacy components for women should be included in all programming, and the involvement of non-governmental organizations is crucial. Furthermore, all programmes should be monitored and evaluated from both environmental and gender perspectives.

Approved projects

(all projects subject to modification; sums quoted in US dollars)

Afghanistan– This revised project will further strengthen community-based rehabilitation services for the disabled in war-torn Afghanistan. It has already developed a pool of local workers who are providing basic services to target groups disabled by disease and war. The assistance has been centred in Kabul, Parwan, Nangahar and Baghlan provinces. More than 140 employment support workers and 10 mental health workers have been trained. Such services will now be extended to Balkh, Takhar and Wardak provinces.

UNDP contribution: $631,553. Funds will be used for training, equipment, and sub-contracts with non-governmental organizations to establish employment support services. Executed by the International Labour Organisation and implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, participating NGOs and community groups. (AFG/86/020)

Bangladesh – In this country which spends 60 per cent of its export earnings on petroleum imports, UNDP has been participating in a multi-donor effort to strengthen engineering and construction capabilities in order to develop national gas reserves.

This project will provide continued technical assistance through a sub-contract with an engineering consulting firm. A complete assessment of training needs will be conducted. Long-term development and investment plans for the energy sector will be devised, along with guidelines for gas pricing. Efficiency audits of the gas operating companies will be conducted.

Government cost-sharing: $5,000,000. Funds will provide engineering supervision consultants, training, equipment and logistical support costs. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. (BGD/92/003)

Cambodia– A majority of the 360,000 returning refugees will resettle in the four north-western provinces of Pursat, Battambang, Banteay Meanchay, and Siem Reap. A substantial number of them will migrate to the urban centres of these provinces, or to the capital city, Phnom Penh.

The aim of the project is the rehabilitation of basic public services in the provincial capitals of Pursat and Siem Reap to accommodate new settlers. Health care facilities will be constructed to handle the growing number of patients with infectious diseases. The water

supply system will be overhauled. Water pumps, generators, treatment plants, water tanks and distribution networks will be replaced. New transformers, low and medium tension lines and meters will be provided to the energy sector. A settlement site will be developed in Pursat for 1,000 low income families.

UNDP contributions: $450,000. United Nations Capital Development Fund contribution: $3,121,000. Funds will provide civil engineers, and short-term advisors. A credit fund will be set up under a sub-contract with CARE. Executed by the Office of Project Services of UNDP. Implemented by the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. (CMB/92/C01)

Chad – Drought, population growth and poor land use have degraded the country's farm land. This five-year project will develop a village-based approach to natural resources management that will protect the environment and improve farm production.

Socio-economic surveys will be conducted and assessments will be made of natural resources and their potential. At all stages, village communities will be consulted. Agroforestry and soil and water conservation activities will be implemented to restore the degraded lands.

United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office contribution: $1,029,880. Funds will be used for equipment and international consultants in agroforestry, socio-economics, and agricultural training. Sub-contracts will be awarded to NGOs. Executed by the Government and implemented by the Ministry of Tourism and Environment. (CHD/91/XO1)

China– China has 1.15 billion people and an annual population growth rate of 1.3 per cent. The government must increase food crop production to meet the growing demand. This can be achieved through better use of under-utilized land, and the breeding and development of higher-yielding and more pest and disease resistant food crop varieties. But these goals have been hampered by a lack of breeding material and inadequate laboratory facilities.

UNDP will assist in a programme to establish China's ability to breed higher-yielding food crop varieties. The effort will concentrate on wheat, sorghum, maize, millet and potato. Project support will improve facilities for crop breeding research at selected institutions. In turn, these institutions will be used as information exchange centres.

UNDP contribution: $5,250,175. Funds will provide study tours, fellowships and international experts in crop-specific subjects. Computers and equipment for crop breeding research laboratories will be provided. Government executed and implemented by the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences. (CPR/91/130)

China– The country does not have sufficient technical and managerial skills to carry out research and development to improve the quality and use of pesticides and fertilizers. UNDP will provide advisory services, training, and upgraded laboratory equipment to enhance the technical and managerial skills of the Nanshen Chemical Research and Development Corp., and the Tianjin Research Institute of Chemical Industries. One aim will be to make the centres and the Ministry of Agriculture more responsive to farmer needs and more aware of environmental concerns. Assistance will also target improved safety and health for workers in fertilizer and pesticide factories.

UNDP contribution: $4,688,800. Government cost-sharing: $420,000. Funds will provide international experts, study tours, training and laboratory equipment. Government executed and implemented by the Ministry of Chemical Industries and the Ministry of Agriculture. (CPR/91/120)

Dominican Republic – A large proportion of the population is functionally illiterate. Administration of the public school system is virtually non-existent and there is no system for national testing.

This project is aimed at addressing these problems. One component involves training 10,000 primary school teachers and 750 administrators. A school maintenance programme for 4,000 rural and urban classrooms will be designed. In addition, a school nutrition programme will be created for nearly 200,000 students. Studies on school management decentralization will be conducted, along with analysis of the cost-effectiveness of a variety of school system options. A national testing system will also be developed.

UNDP contribution: $280,200. Government cost-sharing: $16,538,930. Funds will be used for experts in teacher training, school nutrition, information management, education assessment, and sub-contracts for educational assessments and project administration. Equipment will include supplies for school maintenance, computer systems, and transportation. Government executed and implemented by the Secretaria de Estado de Educacion, Bellas Artes y Culto. (DOM/91/008)

El Salvador – UNDP will strengthen the Ministry of Planning's ability to coordinate and carry out the country's Public Sector Modernization Programme. Technical support will be provided to formulate plans for institutional restructuring and administrative reform. Project support will also be used for meetings with donor organizations and countries to raise funds for implementing the government's modernization programme.

UNDP contribution: $700,000. Funds will be used for seminars, workshops, and national and international consultants in public administration. Executed by the Ministry of Planning. (ELS/92/508)

Mauritania– The third phase of this project will continue to protect villages and infrastructure from sand encroachment. Dur-

ing the past year, 23 new locations were assisted, benefiting 45,000 people. In this new phase, emphasis will be placed on enabling village associations to manage their own natural resources.

Protective measures will be carried out in 30 new sites, covering 2,500 hectares over the next five years. Pasture improvement, reforestation and cultivation of 4,000 hectares are also planned.

UNDP contribution: $898,882. United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Organization contribution: $4,406,797. Funds will provide a chief technical adviser, consultants and national experts. Administrative support staff, equipment and vehicles will also be furnished. Travel costs to 250 sites will be covered. Exe-cuted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and Environment. (MAU/92/001/92/X01)

Regional Projects

RAS/92/032 – This project will provide comprehensive and sustained assistance to the deregulation and economic liberalization process of participating countries in the Asia and Pacific region. This advisory assistance will focus on strengthening government policies and instituting financial sector reforms in order to attract direct foreign investment. Strategies to promote foreign investment will be formulated.

UNDP contribution: $3 million. Funds will be used for training government officials, and providing the services of a project coordinator and policy specialists. Executed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

Interregional Projects

INT/91/042– This follow-up interregional project will provide high-level foreign investment specialists for Morocco, Egypt, Turkey and selected transition economies in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. These expe ts will assess and select investment opportunities, analyze constraints, and develop programmes to facilitate investment in key sectors.

The IFC will provide attorneys and financial officers to structure agreements between local and foreign investors. The ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be private sector firms which, as a result of the project, will acquire foreign partners.

UNDP contribution: $1,515,000. Funds will be used for foreign investment specialists and travel. Executed by the IFC.

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